Claims

1. A system for image-based information retrieval from search engines or databases, characterized by a) a terminal with a built-in camera that is connected to a remote data transmission network; b) a server computer on which an object recognition program is running, which analyses images sent to it and provides them with a symbolic indexing; c) a search engine that uses the indexed image to find information about the image and sends it back to the terminal.

2. The system as described under 1) that is designed for mobile telephones or portable computers that have a built-in camera.

3. A city or museum guide that uses the system described under 2) to provide a user with information about objects of which he or she has previously taken a picture.

4. The system as described under 3) in which positioning information is also used to appropriately limit the image recognition system.

5. The system as described under 2) that provides product information about products that have been previously photographed with the mobile camera.

6. The system as described under 2) in which the image recognition system is also able to recognize text characters or symbols.

7. The system as described under 2) in which the system is, in particular, able to recognize faces.

8.   The system as described under 2) that is used to provide the user with additional information about advertising billboards.

9.   An electronic user handbook that uses a system as described under 2) to quickly navigate access to corresponding sections of the handbook.

10.   The system as described under 2) that allows providers of information to independently make new entries in the image processing system for the purpose of allowing their data to be retrieved·by means of image entry.